

Falkowski Stanek, contacted my congressional office some time ago to inquire as to the status of these awards, in that she, on her mother's behalf and with the assistance of her siblings, wished to create a legacy honoring her late father that could be passed down for generations to come.

Through the hard work of the staff in our Buffalo District Office, and particularly the help of one of our Senior Field Representatives, William J. Greeley, we were able to verify Mr. Falkowski's entitlement to these awards and, on Thursday December 1, 2005, I had the supreme honor of presenting these medals, ribbons and other commendations to Mr. Falkowski's widow and members of his family.

Mr. Speaker, while Frank Falkowski never received his due recognition during his life, I am honored to have been given the opportunity to help give him his deserved recognition today, albeit posthumously. Frank Falkowski was always proud to be an American and was proud of his service to his country, but according to his family, he never spoke much of his experiences in World War II, perhaps owing to the pain those memories brought forth. Frank Falkowski served this Nation proudly and honorably, and his life after the service, where he settled in Western New York, married, worked and raised a family, are a positive example to us all. Fifteen years ago, the Falkowski family prayed that Frank would rest in peace; today, we pray that he knows that his country has, at long last, paid him the full honor to which he so richly deserves.

IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PEACE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of two important resolutions: H. Res. 438, urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and H. Res. 535, honoring the life, legacy and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. At a time when the death of Yasser Arafat and Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip have created the renewed possibility for a safer, more secure, and more peaceful future for Israel, these two resolutions highlight both the challenges and the hope of the current moment.

While Israel has been the victim of unfair United Nations resolutions for much longer than I have been in Congress, the people of Israel should know that the United States will always stand side by side with them in the struggle against hatred and anti-Semitism. We join with them in the fight against terrorism, such as the recent suicide bombing in Netanya which killed 5 Israelis and wounded over 50 others.

At the same time, the memory of Yitzhak Rabin reminds us all of the courage that the Israeli people and their leaders—from David Ben-Gurion to Ariel Sharon—have shown when peace appears possible. I commend the House for making these two important statements and join my colleagues in the hope that Israel will one day live out Prime Minister Rabin's dream, "No more blood—no more tears."

SUPPORT FOR THREE RESOLUTIONS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, under the assumption that the House would have adjourned for the year by Tuesday, December 6, I accepted a very important speaking engagement for that evening in Massachusetts. The event was the installation of a constituent, David Wluka, as President for the year of the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, an important organization with which I have worked closely on the issue of housing, which is one of those that is most important to me in my role on the Committee on Financial Services. My presence at this event had been advertised by the Realtors, and so when suspension votes were scheduled for Tuesday night, I made this one of those rare occasions when I missed votes in order to carry out a responsibility in my district. All three of the votes taken were unanimous, so my absence obviously had no impact on the outcome. But I did want to make sure that my strong support for all three of those resolutions was noted. This is particularly true with H. Res. 438, which urged UN member states to cease their one-sided and unfair condemnations of Israel. The lack of balance in the UN with regard to the Middle East peace process has in fact been an obstacle to the success of that process, by increasing the fears of many in Israel that they will be unfairly treated. As a strong supporter of the ongoing peace process in the Middle East, I believe this resolution was an important one and I hope that the members of the UN will heed it.

Similarly, the resolution honoring the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is another important affirmation of the great value we place on the peace process. Those who murdered this great man sought to murder the process of peace, and it is important for us to make it clear that they did not succeed in that latter effort, although they tragically did succeed in killing one of the great leaders of our time. Yitzhak Rabin's courageous efforts for peace, grounded in the heroic efforts he made during his lifetime to advance Israel's security, deserve not simply this commendation, but serious efforts to bring to fruition what he worked so hard to achieve.

Finally, it is entirely appropriate that our colleague, the gentleman from California, Mr. Lantos, lead the House in recognizing the Fiftieth Anniversary of the extraordinarily brave, through tragic, effort by the Hungarian people to win their freedom from the brutal dictatorship imposed on them by the Soviet Union. While this ended badly with the deaths of so many brave people, it was an affirmation that the human drive for freedom cannot easily be snuffed out, and served as an extraordinary example for the later, successful efforts to break the tyrannical Soviet empire.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 273, to recognize the courage, perseverance, and demand for justice displayed 50 years ago in the Montgomery bus boycott.

On Thursday, December 1, 1955, Ms. Rosa Parks, who recently passed away at the age of 92 and whom this body has honored, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama, public bus. With fifteen year old Claudette Colvin arrested for the same infraction just a few months earlier in Montgomery, the NAACP and the Women's Political Council finally had the opportunity to shed light on their treatment as second-class citizens.

Following discussions amongst civic and church leaders, including the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Jo Ann Robinson, who was the head of the Women's Political Council, and E.D. Nixon, who was the Montgomery official for the NAACP, the people of Montgomery decided to take a simple action that would end up crippling the city for almost a year. The Montgomery bus boycott, which began on Monday, December 5, 1955, called a nation's attention to a legacy of racism, inexplicable discrimination, and equal treatment under the law.

Bringing Montgomery's segregated bus lines to their knees, boycotters did everything from organize a system of carpools to match black taxi cab rates to those of the city's now-empty buses. The crowded rush hour sidewalks served as a testament to that single act of courage and bravery which inspired the modern civil rights movement and went on to revolutionize our country.

As the months passed on with Montgomery's buses continuing to receive few, if any, passengers, leaders of the bus boycott movement soon became targets of racist bigotry—Rev. Abernathy's and Rev. King's houses were firebombed, and boycotters were physically attacked. Yet their movement continued.

It is this great will and determination that was rewarded, on November 13, 1956, when the United States Supreme Court upheld a Federal district court ruling declaring segregation on buses unconstitutional. These events laid the groundwork for future landmark achievements, such as the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. And fifty years later, we are still inspired and invigorated by the strength and determination of the people of Montgomery.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents and the people of this great nation honor the ideals of justice and equality set forth by the Montgomery bus boycott every time we stand up for what is right. This is the legacy of that event, and the legacy we should continue to honor. As we look to the future, we should be inspired by their example and continue to fight for social justice and equality for all people. Just as the devoted boycotters did, we should all remain committed to erasing the inequities that still exist in our society and around the world.